

Appl. No. 09/758,484  
Amtd. Dated March 24, 2005  
Reply to Office action of January 12, 2005

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application.

This Amendment is in response to the final Office Action mailed January 12, 2005. In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 13, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 27, 31, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Examiner also indicates allowable subject matter for claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21, 24, 26, 30, and 34. Applicants have amended claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-15, 18, 21, 24, 26-28, 30-32, 34-36, canceled claims 1, 7, 13, 16-17, 19-20, 22-23, 25, 29, and 33 without prejudice, and added new claims 37-44 without introducing new matter.

Applicants would like to preserve the right to continue prosecuting the canceled claims in the future. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21, 24, 26, 30, and 34 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21, 24, 26, 30, and 34 to include all of the limitations of dependent claims and any intervening dependent claims. Applicants have also added new claims 37-44 without introducing new matter. The newly added independent claims 37, 39, 41, and 43 correspond to the objected claims 4, 5, 10, and 11, respectively, which are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the newly amended and added independent claims 2, 8, 14, 18, 21, 24, 26, 30, 34, 37, 39, 41, and 43 and their respective dependent claims are allowable.

Appl. No. 09/758,484  
Amtd. Dated March 24, 2005  
Reply to Office action of January 12, 2005

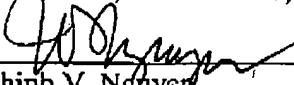
***Conclusion***

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 24, 2005

By   
Thinh V. Nguyen  
Reg. No. 42,034  
Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8A)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

MAILING

FACSIMILE

deposited with the United States Postal Service  
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and  
Trademark Office.

March 24, 2005

Date: March 24, 2005



Date